GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1908
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
CHANGES IN INDIAN EASEMENTS ACT
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to bring changes in Indian Easements Act to protect the depleting ground water reserves;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban extraction of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has taken following steps to regulate and control the development of ground water:-

(i) It has notified 11 critical areas namely, South district of NCT of Delhi, South West District of NCT of Delhi, Yamuna Flood Plain Area of NCT of Delhi, Municipal Corporation area of Faridabad and Ballabgarh, Municipal Corporation of Ghaziabad, Ludhiana City in Punjab, Union Territory of Diu, Jhotwara block of Jaipur district of Rajasthan, Haldia Industrial Complex in Medinipur District of West Bengal, Gandhinagar Taluk of Gujarat and Gurgaon Town and adjoining industrial area of Haryana on consideration of over-exploitation of ground water resources.

(ii) It has also notified 32 over-exploited areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for registration of ground water structures.

(iii) In 673 over-exploited and 425 dark/critical areas in the country, State Pollution Control Boards and Ministry of Environment & Forests obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from CGWA for any new industry/projects. A pre- condition for any permission is the mandatory adoption of rain water harvesting system by the industry/project for ground water recharge.

(iv) On similar lines, other developmental projects located in Coastal Regulation Zone obtain NOC from CGWA as pre- requisite for environment clearance.

(v) The CGWA has issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad to adopt rain water harvesting system.

Besides, a Model Bill has also been circulated to all States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have enacted and implemented the ground water legislation.